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Bet You Missed It -- Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected by Your Crack Team of News Sleuths

Bruce Strauch
The Citadel

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me during my three years of Army service beginning with the **Ft. Dix Library** that I frequented after I finished basic training and was spending another eight weeks learning to send and receive Morse code. Not only could I check out books to read in the barracks, I could listen to music in the listening room and was able to attend a lecture on the poetry of **Robert Frost**. You will do lots of silly things when you are a lonely soldier.

My next station was Ft. Benning, Georgia and jump school. Even there I had a few brief hours to sit in the library and read **Thomas Wolfe** and forget for a while the heat and the physical and mental ordeals designed to make someone jump out of an airplane without a second's hesitation.

My favorite Army library was in Fulda, Germany. I spent more time there, physically, than at any of the other libraries and even had my correspondence school tests proctored there. I will not claim that I spent all my free time in the library and fellow members of the 84th U.S. Army Band probably didn't know that I went there at all. They were more aware of my commitment to bettering German-American relations by spending as much time and money as I could in the various night spots with names like "Atelier," "Palette," "Sofie's," and "The Hole in the Wall." It may not have been the best of times, but they were good times, and I have the list of books I read that year to prove it.

Those libraries and reading experiences did not directly lead me to becoming a librarian, even though I remarked more than once in high school that I wanted to have my own library one day, but they did help me get into college where that part-time job in the **Bancroft Library** led directly to an interest in becoming a librarian. And yes, it is all personal. 

Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: **Pamela M. Rose, M.L.S.** (Web Services & Library Promotion Coordinator, University at Buffalo; Phone: 716-829-2408 x129; Fax: 716-829-2211) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu> wings.buffalo.edu/~pmrose

Column Editor's Note: Hey, are you reading this? Your esteemed column editor would like to know what you think! Zip off a quick email to <pmrose@buffalo.edu>. Does BYMI fill your needs? Do you have any suggestions for changes? I'm listening! — PR

MAY AS WELL SWITCH IF YOU'RE LOSING THE FIGHT by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

When the big city Wi-Fi craze began to build momentum, large telecom and cable companies nearly had a cow. What they were charging \$40 a month for was now being slashed to \$15 or even free if you were in St. Cloud, Florida. Instinctively they tried to stop it through regulatory legislation shoved through state governments. But they lost at every turn.

So now that **AT&T**, **Cox Communications**, and **Time Warner** are seeing markets lost to **Google** and **EarthLink** they want to jump on the bandwagon.

See — **Amol Sharma**, "Companies That Fought Cities on Wi-Fi, Now Rush to Join In," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 20, 2006, p. B1.

YES, HUMANS CARRY MORE PARASITES AND PATHOGENS THAN DOGS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

How do you cook alligator? Just how long can you keep sushi before serving? And can a document shredder be used to tear up tortillas, egg rolls and wonton skins for shredded tortillas et al. on dishes?

These and other vital health questions for restaurants may now get a rapid response at www.foodsafetyweb.info. There an elite lineup of microbiologists, chefs, restaurateurs and regulators from thirty countries are standing by to grapple with the complex world of food and disease.



See — **Jane Zhang**, "Today's Question: How Do You Properly Cook an Alligator?" *The Wall Street Journal*, March 20, 2006, p.A1.

Editor's Note: Some Bet You Missed Its had to be cut from this issue. Watch for more Bet You Missed Its in June! — KS

Issues in Vendor/Library Relations — 100 Chefs

Column Editor: **Bob Nardini** (Senior Vice President & Head Bibliographer, YBP Library Services, 999 Maple Street, Contoocook, NH 03229; Phone: 800-258-3774 x. 3251; Fax: 603-746-5628) <rnardini@ybp.com>

Among the various types of **Google** envy, some are a lot more prevalent than others. You can **Google** that term, in fact. ("**Google**," as our newly-made cliché has it, is verb as well as noun, and for all I know adverb, adjective, preposition, and every other part of speech.) If you do, you will see that the term mainly applies to businesses — direct competitors — who suffer **Google** envy because they wish they had thought of some of the things that **Google** thought of first. This is a relatively small group of people, of course.

Then there are those of us, such as librarians and library vendors, who develop and maintain online databases and interfaces, like **Google** does, and who envy the search engine company's resources because we are always being compared to **Google**. Why aren't your searches as fast as **Google's**? Why isn't your interface as nice as **Google's**? How come **Google** can bring out something new so quickly? Sometimes we see figures on the number of servers **Google** has — around 10,000, I think it is — or the number of soft-

ware engineers employed by **Google** — 1,000 or 2,000, maybe, but really, past a certain point, who's counting? If we had just a fraction of **Google's** resources, we grumble, we'd show them then. But we don't, and while it often feels as if we're competing with **Google**, we're really spectator-competitors, with a good seat to watch the show, but as if watching movies, with no chance to match up in real life with the amazingly beautiful actors and actresses on screen who might as well

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